NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Executive Committee No. 91
August 1954

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Ida Noyes Hall, University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois, USA

August 10 - 11, 1954

C O N T E N T S

1.	Opening	1
2.	Attendance	1
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting	2
4.	Report of the General Secretary	2
5.	Entry of Delegates	2
6.	Public Relations	2
7.	Observers	2
8.	Proselytism and Religious Liberty	2
9.	Changes in Assembly Programme	3
10.	Visit of the President of the U.S.A.	3
11.	Worship Arrangements	3
12.	Accredited Visitors' Programme	3
13.	Working Committees	4
14.	Nominations Committee	4
15.	Steering Committee of the Assembly	4
16.	Message Committee	5
17.	Credentials Committee	5
18.	Press and Broadcasting Committee	6
19.	Structure and Functioning	6
20.	Staff Matters	6
21.	Finances	6
22.	Joint Committee of the IMC-WCC	8
23.	United Bible Societies	8
24.	Basis and General Policy Matters	9
25.	Applications for Membership	9
26.	Observers and Procession	9
27.	Adjournment	9

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1. Opening: The meeting was opened with prayers led by the Chairman.
2. Present were:

Presidents: Archbishop Athenagoras
Bishop Eivind Berggrav
Dr. Marc Boegner
Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam

Chairman: The Bishop of Chichester

Vice-Chairman: Dr. Franklin Clark Fry

Members: Archbishop Y. Brilioth
Dr. Leslie E. Cooke
Professor G. Florovsky
Dr. Kenneth G. Grubb
Metropolitan Mar Thoma Juhanon
Dr. A. Koechlin
Dr. M. Niemoeller
Mrs. Leslie Swain
Mr. Charles P. Taft

Invited to sit in: Professor H.S. Alivisatos
Mr. G. Lombard
Mr. Charles Parlin
Dr. E.A. Payne

Staff: Mr. K.M. Baker, Jr.
Dr. R.S. Bilheimer
Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert
Dr. Nils Ehrenstroem
Mr. John Garrett
Dr. H.H. Harms
Dr. H. Kraemer
Dr. R.C. Mackie
Dr. Rajah Manikam
Dr. Robert Nelson
Dr. O.F. Nolde
Mr. F. Northam
Dr. C. Ranson
Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee Königstein, Germany, February 2 - 5, 1954 were approved as circulated.

4. Report of the General Secretary

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported on Assembly preparations in various countries and in the U.S.A., the attendance expected for the Assembly and the admission of delegates.

5. Entry of Delegates

Dr. Nolde reported that visas had been granted so that the minimum requirements of the Lucknow decisions could be said to have been met in all cases where applications had been made in reasonable time. Some delegates had been refused exit permits. Some delegates from Hungary and Czechoslovakia had been required to limit their public appearances to those under religious auspices. The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Executive Committee to Dr. Nolde and the U.S. Government.

6. Public Relations

Dr. Fry explained the measures that had been taken to assure that the publicity given to the Assembly would be positive in character.

7. Observers

a) A discussion was held on the request of Bishop Dionysius to send an observer from the Serbian Orthodox dioceses in America in view of the fact that no observers were coming from Yugoslavia. It was

AGREED that no invitation be given.

b) Archbishop Athenagoras mentioned the request of Father Jurisson of New York to attend the Assembly but it was

AGREED that due to the involved legal complications in the Estonian Orthodox Church in Exile no such invitation be given.

c) The question was raised about the request of a representation of the Korean Presbyterian Church which had broken off from the member church in Korea and it was

AGREED that no official action should be taken in seating such a representative.

d) The Greek Evangelical Church had requested that its delegate be seated as observer rather than as delegate. After considerable discussion as to the intent of this request the Executive Committee

AGREED that the officers of the Committee be asked to endeavour to persuade the representative of the Greek Evangelical Church to take his place as a full delegate.

8. Proselytism and Religious Liberty

The Committee recognised that the questions of proselytism and religious liberty would doubtless be raised at the Assembly and after discussion

AGREED to recommend to the Central Committee the appointment of a group which should initiate a process of study as to what the World Council might do to deal with the problems of proselytism and religious liberty.

9. Changes in Programme

Dr. Visser 't Hooft called attention to minor changes which have been made in the programme of the Assembly. It was

AGREED that

a) Bishop Newbigin be asked to give his brief statement about the work of the Advisory Commission on the Main Theme not on Sunday August 15, but rather at a time just before the Main Theme Groups began their work;

b) the report of the Chairman of the Central Committee be a personal impression of the first six years of the Council's life;

c) the General Secretary's report present the main trends of the last six years;

d) since Dr Reinhold Niebuhr could not attend the Assembly because of his health, his address be made available to the participants and that the Steering Committee be asked to decide on the manner in which this be done;

e) the Constituting Actions on Monday August 16 should include the reading of the letter of invitation by the presiding officer;

f) the Assembly be asked to authorise the Steering Committee of the Assembly to make adjustments in the Committee membership in the event that his seemed called for. Bishop Oxnam requested that the presiding officers meet to discuss parliamentary procedure methods and it was suggested that this be discussed at the meeting of the Steering Committee at Evanston at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday.

10. Visit of the President of the U.S.A.

Dr. Cavert reported that President Eisenhower had agreed to visit the Assembly. A meeting of the Assembly will be held on the Deering Meadow on August 19 at 4 p.m. Meetings previously scheduled for this afternoon would be advanced to 1:45 p.m.

11. Worship Arrangements

Dr. Payne reported that there had been no major changes since Königstein. It was

AGREED that the winning hymn in the American Hymn Society contest be used at the closing service of worship.

12. Accredited Visitors' Programme

Mr. Schomer presented the suggestions of the Staff Committee for the Accredited Visitors' Programme and the Committee

AGREED to pass these names on to the Central Committee for action.

The Committee further

AGREED that Dr. Billy Graham be invited to address the first Accredited Visitors Session on Tuesday morning, August 17th.

13. Working Committees

The Committee approved the list of officers of working committees printed in the Handbook except that the name of M. Pierre Burgelin was substituted for that of Dr. Leslie Cooke as the Chairman of committee 3. The Committee also approved the names of nomination for Chairmen of sub-committees as follows:

Division of Studies:

a)	Faith and Order	Dr. H. Berkhof
b)	Evangelism	Prof. T.E. Jessop
c)	Church and Society	The Duke of Hamilton
d)	Missionary Studies	Dr. H.J.A. Meyer

Division of Ecumenical Action:

a)	Ecumenical Institute	Dr. G.W. Buckner
b)	Laity	Dr. M.E. Gladfelter
c)	Cooperation of Men and Women	Dr. J.M. Van Veen
d)	Youth	Rev. M.G. Sullivan

Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees:

a)	I.C.A. in Europe	Dr. E. Emmen
b)	Refugees	Very Rev. C. Witton-Davies
c)	Emergency I.C.A. and Relief	Dr. J.W.C. Dougall
d)	Supplies	Landespfarrer H. Puffert

14. Nomination Committee

The Executive Committee

AGREED that the Nomination Committee should be relatively small and agreed to submit the following names as suggestions to the Central Committee:

Dr. Earl Moreland (Chairman)
Prof. Basil Ioannidis
Pasteur Pierre Maury
Mr. R.D. Paul
Rev. R.D. Say
Mrs. L. Swain

15. Steering Committee of the Assembly

It was decided to submit the following names to the Central Committee with the recommendation that they be presented to the Assembly:

Chairmen: The Bishop of Chichester
Dr. Franklin Clark Fry

Secretary: Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer

Members: Bishop Eivind Berggrav
Dr. Marc Boegner
Archbishop Yngve Brilioth
The Archbishop of Canterbury
Dr. Leslie Cooke
Professor George Florovsky
Sir Kenneth G. Grubb
Professor J.L. Hromadka
Bishop C.K. Jacob
Dr. Alphonse Koechlin
Bishop J. Lilje
President John A. Mackay
Metropolitan Mar Juhanon
Bishop William C. Martin
Dr. J. Earl Moreland
Bishop Lesslie Newbigin
Dr. Martin Niemoeller
Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam
Metropolitan Panteleimon
Mr. Charles Parlin
Dr. E.A. Payne
Mrs. Leslie Swain
Mr. Charles Taft
The Archbishop of Thyateira
President Henry P. Van Dusen

16. Message Committee

A discussion was held as to the form which the message might take and how the reports should go to the churches and to the world. It was

AGREED to recommend to the Central Committee and to the Main Theme Group leaders (final decision to be made by the Steering Committee) that a document of less than 2000 words be issued as a message and that a covering pastoral letter be written by the new presidents. A committee consisting of the Chairman, Bishop Berggrav and Archbishop Brilioth was asked to make recommendations to the Central Committee.

17. Credentials Committee

The Committee

AGREED to suggest that the following names be submitted for nomination by the Central Committee:

Chairman: Dr. M.E. Aubrey

Members: Prof. H.S. Alivisatos
Bishop Ivan Lee Holt
Dr. Douglas Horton
Bishop of Malmesbury
Pastor D.W. Niesel

18. Press and Broadcasting Committee

Mr. Parlin reported on the plans being made for the Press covering of the Assembly and called attention to the plaques which his committee had prepared as a gift from the World Council of Churches to Northwestern University and to the First Methodist Church in Evanston. The Executive Committee

AGREED to approve these gifts and to ask the officers to arrange for suitable presentation ceremonies.

19. Structure and Functioning

Dr. Cooke reported additions to be made to the report of the Central Committee on Structure and Functioning:

a) a section on the New York office

b) a section referring to the United Bible Societies

These changes would be submitted to the Central Committee.

It was

AGREED that in the presentation on Monday afternoon August 16, Dr. Cooke should be asked to make reference to the reasons for the recommendation of the Central Committee that presidents not be eligible for immediate re-election. An opportunity would be given for questions and comment but the report would not actually come up for action until the plenary session on the morning of August 18th.

20. Staff Matters

Dr. Fry reported on behalf of the Staffing Committee:

- that Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer had accepted the invitation extended to him by the Executive Committee at Königstein;
- that Mr. Robert Paul had accepted the invitation extended to him by the Executive Committee at Königstein;
- the Dr. Y. Van Beyma had accepted the invitation extended to him at Königstein.

Dr. Fry submitted the following proposals:

- that Dr. Harms be invited to become Associate Director of the Division of Studies;
- that the Rev. Harold Bonnell be invited to become Administrative Secretary of the Service to Refugees;
- that Dr. D.T. Niles be invited to continue as part-time secretary of the Department of Evangelism until such time as arrangement might be made for the appointment of a full-time secretary.

This report was approved.

21. Finances

Bishop Oxnam presented the following report from the Finance Sub-Committee:

The Finance Sub-Committee reviewed the items to be considered by the Finance Committee of the Central Committee and, on most items, decided that detailed examination would involve unnecessary duplication of effort; those items were therefore deferred for consideration by the full Finance Committee.

The Finance Sub-Committee gave more detailed consideration to a problem submitted for the first time, namely, the need for an operating fund for the Refugee Service of the Department of Inter-Church Aid. The problem was expounded by the Secretary and by Dr Mackie. It was noted that at December 31, 1953 about $500,000 were engaged in the working funds of the Refugee Service - bank and cash balances and various debtors of the field offices - and that those resources were effectively borrowed from the reserves and resources of other departments of the World Council. Dr Mackie suggested that a resolution should be passed reaffirming the conviction that the World Council should maintain its Service to Refugees and calling on the member churches to provide an operating fund sufficient to finance that service. It was noted that there is a direct relationship between this need and the work of the Refugee Service in preparing dossiers for immigration under the U.S. Refugee Relief Act. The Sub-Committee agreed that this problem required further consideration by the Finance Committee of the Central Committee, which in turn might wish to refer it to the consideration of the Finance Committee of the Assembly.

The Finance Sub-Committee discussed a suggestion by Dr Cooke that a document should be prepared for the Finance Committee of the Assembly and for the Finance Committee of the new Central Committee, setting out guiding principles based on the experience of the first years and also questions still requiring attention or examination. It was agreed that such a document be prepared by the Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and that it should be recommended that the Chairman should make a verbal statement based on that document at the first meeting of the Finance Committee of the Assembly.

The Secretary reported that pressure of work on preparations for the Assembly had rendered impossible the presentation to the ad hoc committee appointed by the Executive Committee last February of basic information and proposals concerning salary scales for secretarial staff, the possibility of retirement pension arrangements for World Council staff and other related problems and that these questions would therefore have to be left for examination by the Finance Committee of the new Central Committee.

The Secretary reported that it had become clear that the post-Evanston budget, printed in the 'Work Book' for submission to the Assembly, included no margin for contingencies and that neither had it been found possible to include an extra $5,000 for C.C.I.A. in accordance with the desire expressed by the Executive Committee last February nor was there any margin to cover any increased expense which might arise from a re-study of salary and retirement arrangements. It was therefore not clear whether the proposed new structure and programme could be financed with an increase of 25% in revenue from member churches. The Sub-Committee noted that this problem would require consideration by the Finance Committees of the Central Committee and the Assembly.

The Finance Sub-Committee was advised that three staff members were eligible for dependent relative allowances under the rules adopted by the Central Committee meeting at Rolle and agree to recommend that allowances be granted to those three persons - retroactively to January 1st, 1954, in one case and to the date of employment in the other two cases.

After a brief discussion, it was moved and agreed by the Executive Committee on the one item requiring action, namely the granting of dependent relative allowances to three staff members, that the recommendation of the Finance Committee be ADOPTED;

Financial Appeal at the Assembly

Bishop Oxnam recalled that there had been a proposal for a retiring collection to be taken in local churches throughout the U.S.A. on the opening Sunday of the Assembly to raise a fund for the building of a chapel at the World Council headquarters in Geneva. Some communions had agreed to adopt this proposal provided that it was generally adopted but other communions had for good reasons been unable to do so and it had finally been decided that the plan must be dropped.

Dr. Cavert asked whether an appeal could be made and gifts and pledges received at a plenary session of the Assembly. He pointed out that whilst the original Assembly Budget had been fully raised, the expenditure on public relations was likely to exceed the original budget of $40,000 by perhaps $20 - $25,000 under the authorisation granted by the Executive Committee in February 1954 and that income to cover those extra expenses was not yet assured. Dr. Cavert felt that an appeal could be made with propriety and should be made.

The Chairman pointed out that the position was not the same as that at Oxford in 1937: then no resources were available for carrying on the work, whereas the World Council had succeeded in building reserves and was in good financial shape. Bishop Oxnam recalled that there had been appeals to the churches for the General Budget, for the Assembly budget and for the travel of participants to the Assembly and that at the Assembly the churches would probably be asked to increase their giving; he therefore questioned the wisdom of an appeal at the Assembly itself. It was pointed out that such an appeal would be for personal gifts and addressed primarily to the public visitors present at a plenary session of the Assembly. It was recalled that the public had purchased tickets to the plenary session and would include people who had already contributed to the budgets raised in Evanston and in Chicago for local expenses in connection with the Assembly.

The Executive Committee finally decided, on a motion of Bishop Oxnam

to refer the problem to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

22. Joint Committee of the I.M.C.-W.C.C.

Dr. Ranson reported on the meeting of the Ad Interim Committee of the IMC. It was agreed however that action on recommendations arising from that meeting as to the joint projects of the IMC and the WCC could best be considered by the Central Committee after the Assembly.

23. United Bible Societies

Dr. Visser 't Hooft brought in the recommendations of the United Bible Societies for future cooperation with the IMC and the WCC. It was decided to suggest to the Central Committee that Bishop Berggrav and Dr. Boegner should be asked to approach the

representatives of the United Bible Societies who would be present at Evanston in order to discuss with them the recommendations made at the Ad Interim Committee of the IMC.

24. Basis and General Policy Matters

Matters of discussion on the Basis would be referred to the General Policy Committee at the Assembly. The Baptist Union of Scotland had written to the General Secretary asking that all member churches which had not done so should be asked to sign a written statement to the effect that they accepted the Basis. The Executive Committee did not feel that this was a matter which should be passed on the Central Committee, but that the correspondence should remain in the hands of the General Secretary.

The General Secretariat had been informed of the desire of the Five Year Meeting of Friends to have its membership listed with the addition "except the Nebraska Yearly Meeting". The Executive Committee felt that no action should be taken since no formal request had come from the church, but expressed the opinion that the World Council could not take official cognizance of minorities in the churches which opposed their churches' membership in the W.C.C.

25. Applications for Membership

Several applications for membership had been received by the General Secretary since the Königstein meeting. Most of these applications were such that there did not seem to be time for an adquate consideration of them before the Assembly. However, the committee asked Dr. Cavert to inquire of the responsible officials of the National Baptist Convention of America whether official action had been taken by the appropriate body of that church and in the event of an affirmative reply to ask the Steering Committee of the Assembly to decide whether the Assembly should be asked to take action immediately on the application of this church.

26. Observers in Procession

Bishop Oxnam and Dr. Payne were asked to serve as a committee to bring in the recommendation as to whether observers be invited to participate in the procession at the opening worship service on Sunday, August 15.

27. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11,1954.